

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 /089 W
-----003680 150315Z /64

R 140237Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7662
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 06870

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, GW, ET, US
SUBJECT: FRG-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS

REFS: (A) ADDIS ABABA 1613 (NOTAL);
(B) BONN 4841 (NOTAL)

1. FOREIGN OFFICE STATE SECRETARY VAN WELL TOLD THE
AMBASSADOR ON APRIL 6 THAT THE EPMG HAD EXPRESSED
AN INTEREST IN RECEIVING A NEW FRG AMBASSADOR.
ACCORDING TO VAN WELL, THE SUBJECT WAS RAISED BY THE
ETHIOPIAN FINANCE MINISTER WITH FRG PARLIAMENTARY
STATE SECRETARY VON DOHNANYI DURING A RECENT BRUSSELS
MEETING ON LOME II. THE ETHIOPIAN MADE IT CLEAR THAT
THE FORMER FRG AMBASSADOR (LANKES) WAS STILL PERSONA
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NON GRATA, BUT THAT A NEW MAN WOULD BE WELCOMED.
VON DOHNANYI WAS NONCOMMITTAL.

2. WE FOLLOWED UP ON VAN WELL'S REMARKS WITH THE
WORKING LEVEL THIS WEEK. OUR CONTACTS CONFIRM THAT
BONN IS NOT YET READY TO NAME A NEW AMBASSADOR TO
ADDIS. ACCORDING TO OUR CONTACTS, THE LANKES

EXPULSION CAME AS A SHOCK IN BONN AND ALTHOUGH THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS NO PRECONDITIONS, OFFICIALS HERE WILL WANT A SIGN FROM THE EPMG THAT IT IS WILLING TO INTERACT MEANINGFULLY WITH THE WEST BEFORE UPGRADING RELATIONS WITH A NEW AMBASSADOR.

3. AS FAR AS THE FOREIGN OFFICE IS CONCERNED, BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE MOVING TOWARD A COOL BUT PROPER BALANCE AND THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE NEED FOR A GERMAN AMBASSADOR IN ADDIS. NO NEW AID TO ETHIOPIA IS PLANNED BUT WORK ON THE ONGOING PROJECTS HAS RESUMED AND GERMAN EXPERTS HAVE RETURNED TO THE FIELD. THE PREMISES OF THE GERMAN SCHOOL IS STILL IN ETHIOPIAN HANDS, ALTHOUGH THE ETHIOPIANS HAVE NOT OBJECTED TO CLASSES CONTINUING UNDER AN AD HOC ARRANGEMENT WITHIN THE FRG EMBASSY COMPLEX. OUR CONTACTS NOTE THAT THE TAKEOVER OF THE GERMAN SCHOOL IS NOT THE MAJOR CONCERN OF THE FRG; THE PREDOMINANCE OF EASTERN INFLUENCE ON THE EPMG CLAIMS THAT ROLE. NEVERTHELESS, BEFORE THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT COULD JUSTIFY TO ITS DOMESTIC CRITICS THE RETURN OF AN AMBASSADOR TO ETHIOPIA, THE SCHOOL ISSUE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE RESOLVED. AT THE PRESENT TIME, HOWEVER, THERE IS NO INDICATION OF ANY MOVEMENT BY THE EPMG ON THIS POINT.

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4. COMMENT: DURING THE COURSE OF OUR CONVERSATIONS WE HAVE BEEN ASKED ABOUT US PLANS OR CONDITIONS FOR SENDING AN AMBASSADOR TO ADDIS. ANY INFORMATION WE COULD SUPPLY ON US INTENTIONS WOULD CERTAINLY BE WELCOMED, SINCE THE SAME FACTORS WHICH MIGHT INDUCE US TO UPGRADE OUR MISSION WOULD BE CONSIDERED RELEVANT HERE AS WELL.
STOESSEL

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